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MONDAY
MARCH 29, 1954

I went over to see Doug Dillon this morning and we surveyed a variety of problems.

E. came to lunch and we had excellent sandwiches at the snack bar.

I stopped in at an exhibition of Italian villas in the so-called Venetian style, designed by Palledio, his precursors and his followers. The reproductions were entirely photographs and it was a fascinating assemblage. The strong resemblance between this and much of the Jeffersonian and later architecture of the United States is striking. I saw for the first time photographs of Il Rotondo, of which Michael Tree's house in Kent, Mereworth Castle, is almost an exact copy. I know of no domestic style of architecture as attractive as this for certain climates.

André de Staercke called me about Marshal Juin's speech yesterday in which Juin stated his opposition to the EDC. De Staercke says the Belgians take a serious view of one of the SHAPE Commanders expressing such political opinions, and he intends to raise the question of the propriety of his having done so at the next meeting of the NATO Council.

Mr. Nordness of USIA came with Connie Egan to talk about a long-range program designed to create better relations between the French and Germans.

Kit Steel called on me. He said because of the scheduling of the budget debate in the House of Commons it would now appear necessary for Eden to make a speech on the British military agreement and the other declaration next Monday, April 5.

In the face of French Government immobilism, we have been struggling today even harder than usual in attempts to accelerate the disposition of those affairs in which the United States has an interest, such as the Saar agreement.

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We went to dinner tonight at the Jacquinots'. Afterwards I had a discussion with Barrachin, whose project of law or amendments to the Constitution has in part recently failed of passage in the Conseil de la République. He says Prime Minister Laniel was opposed to this particular provision, which would have enabled a Prime Minister to be elected by the National Assembly by a simple majority rather than an absolute majority vote. He thinks Laniel's opposition was founded entirely on his personal desire to remain in office as long as possible. Barrachin will now endeavor to obtain, before the Easter holiday recess, a two-thirds vote in the National Assembly which would override the action in the Conseil de la République. Barrachin is opposed to the EDC, but not strongly. He says he can see no merit on Laniel's refusal to fix a date for a debate before a Saar settlement has been reached. This stand he also ascribes to the Prime Minister's wish to put off as long as possible the day of challenge to his remaining in office.

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